

5 October 1960

State Department review
completed

CONGO

I. Power struggle in Leopoldville continues, with both Mobutu and Lumumba showing signs of strain.

25X6 A. Mobutu [redacted] has spoken of "giving up."
In conversation with Ambassador Timberlake, Mobutu has threatened to drop whole mess into parliament's lap.

25X1 B. Domestic support for Lumumba appears to be slipping, in part as result of Mobutu disclosures of Lumumba's reliance on bloc and other foreign aid.

[redacted]

II. Thus far Mobutu has supported a roundtable conference as the means by which Congo's governmental crisis could be resolved.

A. When roundtable was proposed by Mobutu on 26 September, idea was accepted by both pro- and anti-Lumumba groups.

B. But subsequently Lumumba has insisted that he attend in capacity as Congo premier. No date for conference has yet been set, and in view of new parliamentary opposition to Lumumba, Mobutu may forget the roundtable and reconvene parliament.

III. Lumumba's most active supporters in Leopoldville are UAR, Ghanaian and Guinean representatives.

[redacted]

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C. But capabilities of triumvirate somewhat weakened following transfer of Ghanaian contingent to outside Leopoldville.

1. Subsequently, UAR company refused to be rotated outside of Leopoldville. At least two planeloads of soldiers were flown back to Leopoldville from Equator Province on 1 October, allegedly without UN knowledge.

D. While Soviets, after decline of Lumumba's fortunes withdrew about two hundred diplomats, technicians and operators plus planes and some equipment, they apparently still hope to return.

1. Some of the removed diplomats may be waiting in not distant Accra, Ghana.

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IV. Congo financial situation continues precarious. UN fears complete exhaustion Congo government funds by 15 October.

A. Although UN has provided \$500,000 for public works in Congo cities, UN officials fear that Congo's failure to stock chemicals for water purification will lead to contamination Leopoldville water supply by 1 December.

V. Arrival of 1,142 Indonesian troops at Leopoldville on 2 October raised total of UN force to 18,145.

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